



## **Improvements in DEQ's Approach to Tank Release Cleanup**

Rebecca Ridenour, DEQ

Terry Wadsworth, PTRCB

DEQ has reviewed and improved its business processes over the past five years. Several changes have been made to improve effectiveness and efficiency, and we continue to look for ways to move a release to closure in a shorter timeframe.

DEQ will need a cleanup plan for every open petroleum release. A plan will need to lay out how the release will be closed and must be created and supported by the owner/operator. We have elected to make closure-focused project management of petroleum releases our standard in response to both legislative mandates and US EPA directives.

Several changes will be implemented in 2015 that are aimed at increasing owner/operators involvement in cleanup and how environmental consultants do business. We will be reaching out to owner/operators of petroleum releases more consistently and will encourage active decision making in clean-up and commitments to closures.

Some of the specific processes to be updated include:

1. Remedial Alternatives Analysis
2. Including petroleum mixing zones as a closure alternative
3. Defining the amount of mass removed
  - a. Excavations
  - b. In-Situ systems
4. Work plan and report expectations
5. Scoping and strategic planning for all releases from the start

In addition to business changes, DEQ and PTRCB are adopting a new database that will assist business process improvements and communications to the public. The database will help us be proactive and move a release to closure.

The spring consultants meeting will focus on the business process updates that DEQ will be making in the upcoming year. The meeting will be an open forum for questions. Anyone interested in these changes and how they will impact petroleum cleanup is strongly encouraged to attend.